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General Assembly

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Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 71
Assistance to survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, particularly orphans, widows and victims of sexual violence

United Republic of Tanzania:* draft resolution

Assistance to survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, particularly orphans, widows and victims of sexual violence

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1]

Recalling the findings and recommendations of the independent inquiry commissioned by the Secretary-General, with the approval of the Security Council, into the actions of the United Nations during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda,[2]

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[3] particularly its recognition that all individuals, in particular vulnerable people, are entitled to freedom from fear and freedom from want, with an equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential,

Recalling further its resolution 59/137 of 10 December 2004, in which it requested the Secretary-General to encourage relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to continue to work with the Government of Rwanda to develop and implement programmes aimed at supporting vulnerable groups that continue to suffer from the effects of the 1994 genocide,

Recalling its resolution 60/225 of 23 December 2005, in which it urged Member States to develop educational programmes on the lessons of the genocide in Rwanda, and also requested the Secretary-General to establish a programme of outreach for Rwanda genocide victim remembrance and education, in order to prevent future acts of genocide,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States.

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] See S/1999/1257.

[3] See resolution 60/1.

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Recognizing the numerous difficulties faced by survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, particularly the orphans, widows and victims of sexual violence, who are poorer and more vulnerable as a result of the genocide, especially the many victims of sexual violence who have contracted HIV and have since either died or become seriously ill with AIDS,

Commending the significant efforts of the Government and people of Rwanda and civil society organizations, as well as international efforts, to provide support for restoring the dignity of the survivors, including the allocation by the Government of Rwanda of 5 per cent of its national budget every year to support genocide survivors,

Recalling Security Council resolution 1966 (2010) of 22 December 2010, in which the Council requested the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda to take all possible measures to expeditiously complete all its remaining work no later than 31 December 2014, to prepare its closure and to ensure a smooth transition to the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals,

Firmly convinced of the necessity of restoring the dignity of the survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, which would help to promote reconciliation and healing in Rwanda,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General,[4]

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to encourage the relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to implement resolution 59/137 expeditiously, inter alia, by providing assistance in the areas of education for orphans, medical care and treatment for victims of sexual violence, including HIV-positive victims, trauma and psychological counselling, and skills training and microcredit programmes aimed at promoting self-sufficiency and alleviating poverty;

2. *Calls upon* Member States and the United Nations system to urgently implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General;[4]

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue the activities of the programme of outreach entitled "The Rwanda Genocide and the United Nations" aimed at Rwanda genocide victim remembrance and education, in order to help to prevent future acts of genocide;

4. *Notes* the importance of residual issues, including witness protection and victim support, the archives of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and judicial issues and capacity-building for the Rwandan judiciary, and underlines the need for increased and sustained attention to these issues;

5. *Welcomes* the adoption of Security Council resolution 1966 (2010) of 22 December 2010, in which the Council decided to establish the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, and in this regard calls upon the Mechanism to conclude the remaining cases within the initial period set out in resolution 1966 (2010), and calls upon Member States to support that effort;

[4] A/66/331.

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Government of Rwanda, to continue to encourage the relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to take appropriate steps to support, in particular, efforts to enhance judicial capacity-building and victim support in Rwanda;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in view of the critical situation of the survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda completion strategy, to continue to take all necessary and practicable measures for the implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly, at its sixty-eighth session, with concrete recommendations for appropriate solutions to the remaining needs of survivors of the Rwandan genocide of 1994;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session the item entitled "Assistance to survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, particularly orphans, widows and victims of sexual violence".

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General Assembly

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Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 15
Culture of peace

Australia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Libya, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Seychelles, Trinidad and Tobago and Viet Nam: draft resolution

Promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] in particular the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion,

Recalling its resolution 65/138 of 16 December 2010 on the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace and its other related resolutions,[2]

Recalling also its resolution 64/14 of 10 November 2009 on the Alliance of Civilizations, in which it welcomed efforts to promote greater understanding and respect among people from different civilizations, cultures and religions,

Bearing in mind the valuable contribution that interreligious and intercultural dialogue can make to an improved awareness and understanding of the common values shared by all humankind,

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] Resolutions 36/55 by which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, 56/6 on the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations, 57/6 on the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010, 57/337 on the prevention of armed conflict, 58/128 on the promotion of religious and cultural understanding, harmony and cooperation, 59/23 on the promotion of interreligious dialogue, 61/17 on the International Year of Reconciliation, 2009, 62/155 on human rights and cultural diversity, 63/113 on the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010, 63/181 on the elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief, 64/81 on the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace and 65/5 on World Interfaith Harmony Week.

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Noting that interreligious and intercultural dialogue has made significant contributions to mutual understanding, tolerance and respect, as well as to the promotion of a culture of peace and an improvement of overall relations among people from different cultural and religious backgrounds and among nations,

Recognizing that cultural diversity and the pursuit of cultural development by all peoples and nations are sources of mutual enrichment for the cultural life of humankind,

Emphasizing the importance of culture for development in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and in this regard noting the close links between cultural diversity, dialogue and development,

Noting the various initiatives at the national, regional and international levels for enhancing dialogue, understanding and cooperation among religions, cultures and civilizations, which are mutually reinforcing and interrelated,

Welcoming the establishment of the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue in Vienna, initiated by King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, on the basis of the purposes and principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and acknowledging the important role that the Centre is expected to play as a platform for the enhancement of interreligious and intercultural dialogue,

Acknowledging the tenth anniversary of the 2001 Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, and welcoming the commemoration of the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures in 2010 and the adoption by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-sixth session of a resolution proclaiming an international decade for the rapprochement of cultures (2013-2022),

Encouraging activities aimed at promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue in order to enhance social stability, respect for diversity and mutual respect in diverse communities and to create, at the global level, and also at the regional, national and local levels, an environment conducive to peace and mutual understanding,

Recognizing the contributions of the media and of new information and communications technology to changing peoples' perceptions of different cultures and religions, including through the promotion of dialogue,

Reaffirming the importance of sustaining the process of engaging all stakeholders, including young men and women as relevant actors, in interreligious and intercultural dialogue within the appropriate initiatives at various levels, which aims to challenge preconceived ideas and improve mutual understanding,

Recognizing the commitment of all religions to peace and the need for voices of moderation from all religions and beliefs to work together in order to build a more secure and peaceful world,

1. *Reaffirms* that mutual understanding and interreligious and intercultural dialogue constitute important dimensions of the dialogue among civilizations and of the culture of peace;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on intercultural, interreligious and intercivilizational dialogue;[3]

3. *Notes* the continuing work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on intercultural and interreligious dialogue and its efforts to promote dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples, as well as activities related to a culture of peace, and welcomes in particular the adoption of its new programme of action on a culture of peace and non-violence and its focus on concrete actions at the global, regional and subregional levels;

4. *Reaffirms* the solemn commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of, all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] and other instruments relating to human rights and international law, the universal nature of these rights and freedoms being beyond question;

5. *Welcomes* the efforts by the media to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue, encourages the further promotion of dialogue among the media from all cultures and civilizations, emphasizes that everyone has the right to freedom of expression, and reaffirms that the exercise of this right carries with it special duties and responsibilities and may therefore be subject to certain restrictions, but that these shall be only such as are provided by law and necessary for respect of the rights or reputations of others, protection of national security or of public order, or of public health or morals;

6. *Also welcomes* the efforts to use information and communications technology, including the Internet, to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue, and in this regard acknowledges with appreciation the establishment by the Non-Aligned Movement of the Interfaith Dialogue e-Portal pursuant to commitments made during the Special Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Development, held in Manila in March 2010;

7. *Encourages* Member States to consider, as and where appropriate, initiatives that identify areas for practical action in all sectors and levels of society for the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, tolerance, understanding and cooperation, inter alia, the ideas suggested during the High-level Dialogue on Interreligious and Intercultural Understanding and Cooperation for Peace, held in New York on 4 and 5 October 2007, including the idea of an enhanced process of dialogue among world religions;

8. *Calls upon* Member States to consider, as appropriate and where applicable, interreligious and intercultural dialogue as an important tool in efforts aimed at achieving peace and the full realization of the Millennium Development Goals;

9. *Recognizes* the efforts by relevant stakeholders to foster peaceful and harmonious coexistence within societies by promoting respect for religious and cultural diversity, including by engendering sustained and robust interaction among various segments of society;

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[3] A/66/280.

10. *Acknowledges* the active engagement of the United Nations system with faith-based organizations in the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue and in bringing together people of different faiths to discuss common issues and objectives;

11. *Also acknowledges* the important role of civil society, including academia, in fostering interreligious and intercultural dialogue, and encourages support for practical measures that mobilize civil society, including building capacities, opportunities and frameworks for cooperation;

12. *Invites* Member States to further promote reconciliation to help to ensure durable peace and sustained development, including through reconciliatory measures and acts of service and by encouraging forgiveness and compassion among individuals;

13. *Recognizes* that the Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat plays a valuable role as focal point within the Secretariat on the issue, and encourages it to continue to interact and coordinate with the relevant entities of the United Nations system and coordinate their contribution to the intergovernmental process;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 15
Culture of peace

Australia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Libya, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Seychelles, Trinidad and Tobago and Viet Nam: draft resolution

Promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace

Addendum

Add the following countries to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution:

Algeria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Eritrea, Fiji, Honduras, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Panama, Peru, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sudan, Suriname, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey and Turkmenistan

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